

REMARKS

Claims 1-68 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 13-36, 38-42, 44-50, and 52-68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0023658 A1 to Gueret. The Examiner also objected to claims 2, 8, 12, 37, 43, and 51, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable features of claim 2 and has amended independent claim 34 to include the allowable features of claim 37. Applicant also has rewritten claims 8, 12, 43, and 51 in independent form. Claims 2 and 37 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 8, 12, 34, 43, and 51 are allowable and that claims 3-7, 9-11, 13-33, 35-36, 38-42, 44-50, and 52-68 are allowable at least because they depend from one of allowable claims 1 or 34.

Conclusions

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

The Office Action contains statements and characterizations regarding the claims and the related art. Applicant declines to subscribe automatically to any statement or characterization in the Office Action, regardless of whether it is addressed above.


If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at 202-408-4356.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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